

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)
)
Revocation of the Educator's Certificate))
)
of Elisabeth B. Hollifield)
)
Certificate # 212062)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION (BREACH OF CONTRACT)

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 7, 2002. Notice of the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator's certificate (certificate) was sent to Ms. Elisabeth Hollifield from the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. Hollifield received the notice as evidenced by a letter from her attorney requesting a hearing on her behalf. Ms. Hollifield subsequently withdrew her hearing request. After considering the evidence presented by the Department the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Hollifield's certificate # 212062 for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hollifield holds a valid certificate and has no prior teaching experience. She signed an induction teaching contract with the Spartanburg County School District Two (District) for the 2002-2003 school year. In a letter dated October 7, 2002, Ms. Hollifield submitted her immediate resignation citing extreme job stress. On October 8, 2002, the District Board of Trustees voted to request the suspension of Ms. Hollifield's certificate by the State Board. On October 16, 2002, James O. Jennings District Superintendent, notified the Department of Ms. Hollifield's breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence to support its decision to suspend Ms. Hollifield's certificate #212062 for one year from October 8, 2002, through October 7, 2003, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if she wants her certificate reinstated, Ms. Hollifield may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ J. Spratt White
J. Spratt White
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

January 7, 2003